

MOUNT FUJI FIRES BLAZE TRIBUTE TO JAPAN'S EMPEROR

Flames On Peak of Sacred Volcano Not Eruption, But Ceremony

HEAVENS LIGHTED
FOR MANY MILES

Millions of Faithful Natives Bow In Prayer Before Shinto Shrines Beseeching Happiness For Their Ruler and Greatness and Prosperity For Their Country

(By the Associated Press.)

Tokio, Sept. 4.—Fires bursting high from the peak of sacred Mount Fuji last night were not volcanic, as some people who had not read the newspapers supposed, but were mere bonfires as a signal to the world of Japan that the great accession ceremonies of Emperor Yoshihito were approaching. The glare of the flames lightened the heavens for a hundred miles and as they soared upward with their message thousand—millions of the faithful were bowed in prayer before their Shinto shrines beseeching happiness for their ruler—content, perfection and greatness for their country.

The rite on Fuji's summit was arranged by Shinto priests and was attended by a large company. It was a religious function which had no real connection with the official coronation program but was held to inspire the people with the significance and grandeur of the coming ceremony.

After the prayers for the glory of the reign of the Emperor the sacred sake wine was passed from lip to lip and offered to the god of the Shinto shrine.

1,700 To Attend

About 1,700 persons, it is announced, will attend the chief accession ceremonies at Kyoto in November. These will include the representatives of the monarchs and presidents of the treaty powers, princes and princesses of the blood, officials of the Shinnin rank, the presidents, vice-presidents and members of the Diet, princes, representatives of various peers, as well as a representative of the Shinto and Buddhist religions.

The fact that no representative of Christianity has been invited to the ceremonies has caused a controversy. Dr. Ichiki, Minister of Education, explained that no Christians in Japan are accorded court rank, while the Buddhists and Shintoists are accorded the rank known as Chokunin. Not in the sense of attaching more importance to the other religions, suggests Dr. Ichiki, but simply because Christianity in Japan has no representative with an official rank, the imperial household commission probably found it impossible to include a Christian delegate in the list of those who will attend the forthcoming coronation.

Japanese Christians say they are not satisfied with this explanation. They think that the Buddhist and the Shinto representatives have been invited not primarily because they hold the rank of Chokunin, but because they represent the Buddhist and Shinto religious organizations. The Christians do not claim that they ought to have a representation in the ceremony, but they argue that when Christianity has been given freedom of preaching in Japan it will appear strange to foreign nations if they are not given an equal privilege with other religious bodies.

To Make Investigation.

A Japanese pastor of one of the leading Christian churches conferred with Count Okuma about the question, and the Premier promised to make an investigation.

Preparations for the accession are occupying an army of workers. All over the country devout men and women are solemnly and religiously doing their share in the task of getting ready for the great ceremony.

At Kumogabatomura, near Kyoto, woodmen cut the trees that will furnish the timbers for one of the halls of the coronation rites. This is the hall in which the ceremony of the dedication of the sacred rite to the imperial ancestors' spirits will be held. The trees were cut down according to the ancient Shinto rites which make this task of felling timbers something of ceremony in itself.

First the woodmen were purified by Shinto priests. The first tree was then felled with all due solemnity; it was a cryotomia. The branches were lopped off and these together with the stump were burned as an offering to the god of the wood.

Old Costumes Used.

Fifteen carts, attended by leading

12 REPORTED DEAD IN ELEVATOR FIRE

\$2,000,000 Blaze Guts Grain Building at Newport News; Not Controlled

(By the Associated Press.)

Newport News, Va., Sept. 4.—Property damage estimated at upwards of two million dollars resulted from a fire which originated in Chesapeake and Ohio grain elevator "A" here at midnight tonight and spread to nearby buildings and to a big grain pier. First reports that twelve elevator employees had been burned to death were not verified.

The elevator with nearly half a million bushels of wheat was destroyed; grain pier No. 5 was badly damaged and the local offices of the C. and O. Railway Company and of the United States Shipping Company and the Holland America line were consumed. Two other piers and three steamships, two foreign and one American were threatened.

The origin of the fire had not been ascertained tonight. Railway officials asserted it apparently started about the center of the building. Before breaking through and being discovered, it had spread from top to bottom and end to end of the immense eleven story structure. The heat was so intense that for an hour firemen could not approach within several blocks and no effort could be made to fight the flames.

Fire Spreads Quickly.

Traveling down the grain chutes from the elevator, the fire spread to pier 5. The sheet metal covering of the dock was warped by the heat and the wooden interior became ignited. The railway offices and the two shipping offices were next to go, but shortly afterwards a shift of the wind enabled the firemen to save other piers and buildings.

Two British steamers which were loading grain at pier No. 5 for the allied countries in Europe were towed into the harbor before being damaged. An Old Dominion passenger liner at an adjoining pier got away under her own steam and was uninjured.

Elevator A was one of the largest structures of its kind in the United States, having a capacity of 1,500,000 bushels of grain. It was valued at nearly \$1,000,000 and was of wood with sheet metal covering. The full extent of the damage to pier 5 could not be estimated.

The loss is partially covered by insurance.

5 KILLED, 4 HURT IN FREIGHT WRECK

Norfolk and Western Train Hits Rock Slide South of Roanoke

(By the Associated Press.)

Roanoke, Va., Sept. 4.—Five persons were killed, two trainmen, and three negro trespassers, and two trainmen and two negro trespassers were seriously injured today, when extra freight train No. 750, of the Norfolk and Western, Winston-Salem division, was wrecked, nine miles south of Roanoke, this afternoon by striking a rock slide.

The dead:

Garfield W. Martin, fireman, Roanoke.

Charles H. Coleman, fireman, and three unidentified negro trespassers.

The injured:

Robert E. Hughson, engineer, Roanoke.

A. Williamson, brakeman, Roanoke, and two negro trespassers.

All of the injured are seriously hurt.

villagers, dressed in the old fashioned costume of the woodman and carrying fans of the rising sun, will be used to bring the timbers to the site for the hall. The villagers will draw and push these carts themselves, accompanying their labors by the singing of the ancient Kiyari song. One hundred timbers will be brought to Kyoto in this manner.

Some of the rice offered to the spirits of the imperial ancestors must come from the Yuki rice field, near Nagoya. And while this offering is made, it will be part of the ceremonies to have sung some of the rustic idylls of the people of the village where the Yuki rice field is located.

To prepare for the feature of the ceremony a court musician is now spending his time in the villages collecting and arranging the rustic melodies of farm life.

WOMAN'S WORK ON FIRMER FOOTING

Gentler Sex To Fill Larger Place in Field of Industry, One Result of War

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Sept. 4.—"None of the war's changes in our social structure will prove as notable to the future historian as the wholesale introduction of woman labor into trades, occupations, and professions hitherto exclusively staffed by men," declared Sir George Croydon Marks, member of Parliament for Northeast Cornwall, in the first of a series of lectures on "The New Woman." He added:

"The question which is of real importance today, however, is whether that future historian will regard the phenomenon as coincident with war conditions and terminating with them, or whether it will mark the beginning of a social revolution and a new stage in the industrial and commercial co-operation of men and women.

"When the war is over shall we still see the milk-woman, the girl ticket-collector, the girl commissionaire at their work, or will they automatically disappear before the returning tide of the civilian armies?"

"We may well ask ourselves at this moment, for it is a question which must inevitably arise and a problem for which we cannot be too well prepared. What is to happen at the conclusion of the war to those women of every social grade and every shade of attainment who in the past year have slipped so readily into man's occupations?"

"In considering the question broadly the analogy of France may be taken into consideration. The capacity, the business ability, and the ready grasp of affairs which the women of France, more than of any other nation, have shown themselves to possess has been traced, perhaps fancifully, to the frequent necessity with which they have been forced to take upon themselves the conduct of those affairs during the absence of their men on military duties.

"It is quite possible, indeed quite probable, that the introduction of wholesale introduction of women's labor which we are at present witnessing may be to develop those qualities of resourcefulness and of ready efficiency which characterize and have characterized French women for many years.

"Considered more narrowly, the problem which will present itself to the business man as soon as the war is over is, simply stated, how far it will be his duty to replace the patriotic woman who is taking the place of the soldier fighting his country's battles, by that soldier himself, when the time to lay down his arms arrives.

"At first sight it may seem no problem at all. Apart from actual promises given there remains a pledge of honor to reinstate the soldier in his position as the wage-earner. No consideration of economy, no consideration of efficiency rapidly acquired by the woman worker can be allowed for an instant to interfere with this.

"Undoubtedly many employers will feel a wrench in rejecting those women who, for the past year or more, have been doing their duties so nobly and effectively, in favor of the soldier whose new life will probably have unfitted him to some extent for the office stool. The effect may be in many instances that employers will find a way of retaining the services permanently of those women in conjunction with the reinstated men.

"In the past, the jealousy which has been felt of women's employment in business has been founded entirely on the wages question. While men worked for a living wage, women worked for pocket-money, and were able to accept it because they were able to be dependent primarily on the wage-earner. It is obvious that it is upon this question of wages that the whole problem must ultimately depend. The business man must realize that cheap woman's labor is at the best a temporary expedient in wartime from a national standpoint, and a temporary expedient in peace time from a personal standpoint.

"Without making any attempts at prophecy it may be unreasonable to suggest that while considerable numbers of women temporarily employed at present will be displaced by the return of the armies, the effect of the existing situation will be to establish woman's labor on a far firmer footing in those industries where they can be retained without injury to their health and that the wastage of human life will be to a large extent repaired by these women who are now fitting themselves for new occupations."

Drainage Men to Meet.

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Washington, Sept. 4.—The North Carolina State Drainage Association is to meet in Belhaven this fall either in October or November, the exact date has not as yet been decided upon.

POPE PLEASED AT PEACE PROSPECTS

Vatican Considers Cardinal's Interview With Wilson Step To End War

MESSAGE NOT OFFICIAL

Holy See Announces Gibbons' Communication Was Verbal and Not Written As Suggested In Some Quarters; Expressed Exact Views of Pontiff, Says Rome

(By the Associated Press.)

Rome, via Paris, Sept. 4.—Cardinal Gibbons' interview with President Wilson is considered by the Vatican as the most important event in the campaign for the re-establishment of peace, but the Holy See wishes to have the attitude of the Pope plainly set forth, to avoid misunderstanding, and, therefore, has issued a formal statement to the effect that the Pope did not send any special message by the Cardinal to the President of the United States. The statement follows:

"Reports from America concerning the visit of Cardinal Gibbons to Washington might give the impression that the Cardinal was the bearer of a special message from Pope Benedict to President Wilson, which is not the fact. It is considered important by the Vatican authorities that the facts be stated with careful exactness, to avoid misunderstanding which might hinder the supreme object of peace."

"Cardinal Gibbons did not send any special written message from the Pope, as he thoroughly knows the ideas and aims of the pontiff, and undoubtedly expounded them to President Wilson in the conversation that was had with him."

Cardinal Uncommunicative.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 4.—Cardinal Gibbons adhered tonight to his policy of reticence regarding his conversation with President Wilson Thursday. He read the formal statement issued by the Vatican saying he was not the bearer of a "special message" from Pope Benedict to President Wilson, but would not comment upon it or any other phase of the European situation.

ODD TOE IDENTIFIES HER AFTER 31 YEARS

(By the Associated Press.)

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—By a misshaped toe and a birthmark on her body, Mrs. G. R. Kostadt has established today her identity as Annie Mooney, who was kidnapped from her parents in this city thirty-one years ago when she was five years old, kept by Chinese for several years and rescued by police from a trunk in which she was hidden.

After her rescue Annie was adopted by a Portuguese family. Her foster mother died when she was 14 years old and four years later Annie married Kostadt.

James Mooney, her father and others, offered rewards aggregating \$1,000 at the time of the child's disappearance. Mooney and his wife died several years ago but four sisters and a brother are here to welcome their long lost sister.

FOURTEEN ARRESTED IN STRIKE AT WATERTOWN

(By the Associated Press.)

Watertown, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Fourteen strikers at the St. Regis Paper Company's mill at Deferiet were arrested tonight by Sheriff Charles Hooper and locked up in the county jail here charged with rioting. Employees of the company identified fourteen of them as those alleged to have taken part in the riots of Thursday night.

\$15,000,000 TO HELP COTTON PRODUCERS

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Sept. 4.—Formal orders designating the Federal reserve banks of Richmond, Atlanta and Dallas as government depositories were signed today at the Treasury Department and preparation made for dispatching from United States sub-treasuries \$15,000,000 in gold to be used in aiding cotton producers.

Each bank is to receive \$5,000,000 and the shipments probably will start tonight on their journey. Treasury officials declined as a precautionary measure to tell what sub-treasury will furnish the gold.